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Proposed amendments to the specification:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please make the following amendments to the specification.

*Please substitute the following replacement paragraph for original paragraph [0022], the full text of which is reprinted below with markings to show all of the changes relative to the previous version:*

[0022] FIG. 6b is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the preterminated distribution cable of FIG. 5 taken through an optical fiber guide channel of a C-shaped molded member; and

*Please insert the following new paragraph immediately after replacement paragraph [0022] and before original paragraph [0023]:*

[0022A] FIG. 6c is an enlarged cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of the preterminated distribution cable of FIG. 5 taken through the optical fiber guide channel; and

*Please insert the following new paragraph immediately after original paragraph [0048] and original paragraph [0049]:*

[0048A] Referring to FIG. 6c, an enlarged cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of the assembled preterminated distribution cable is shown taken through the optical fiber guide channel 62. The exemplary cable shown in FIG. 6c is a 72 fiber central tube optical fiber ribbon cable comprising a stack of five optical fiber ribbons encased within a single tube (i.e. monotube) 72 with each buffer optical fiber ribbon comprising twelve optical fibers 34. Four optical fibers 34 from an appropriate optical fiber ribbon have been preterminated and are shown residing within 900  $\mu$ m protective tubes 54 in one row of four individual fibers within the optical fiber guide channel 62. The remaining optical fibers 34 within the tube 72 that have not been preterminated continue through the distribution cable, potentially being preterminated at another

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access location further downstream. The central strength member 68 of the previous embodiment is replaced by a pair of diametrically opposed strength members 74. The fiber guide channel 62, the ripcords 66 and the remaining components of the assembly are essentially as previously described.